

## PARCC Assessment Accommodations: Frequently Asked Questions for Parents/Guardians

### 1. *What is the PARCC assessment?*

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment is the test that has replaced DC CAS. It will be given starting this school year (2014-2015) to students in grades 3 to 8 and students in high school who are taking Algebra 1, Geometry, English 1 and English 2. The PARCC assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards and will help you know if your student is on track for success in college or careers.

You can learn more about PARCC here: <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/PARCC>.

Students participating in the alternate statewide assessment will not participate in the PARCC. Please see Question 6 below for more information on the alternate assessment.

### 2. *What will be different about how my student takes the test?*

The PARCC assessment is a computer-based test (CBT), which means that it is given online rather than by paper and pencil. Most of the accommodations will be built in to the online test. PARCC is also given in two parts: the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) assessment. The PBA happens 75% of the way through the school year and includes longer tasks that require students to apply what they've learned. The EOY occurs 90% of the way through the school year and includes new types of short answer items.

### 3. *Will my student receive the accommodations listed on his/her IEP or 504 plan?*

Yes. At your student's next IEP or 504 annual review meeting, the IEP or 504 team will select the appropriate PARCC accommodations for your student. These will be included in the IEP/504 plan and will be made available to your student during the PARCC assessment and any other computer-based test. If you have already had your annual IEP/504 review meeting and did not discuss accommodations, your team will meet again.

Since the PARCC assessment is a computer-based test, IEP and 504 teams have the choice to select a paper and pencil accommodation for students, if it is appropriate. The paper and pencil accommodation will then be included in the IEP/504 plan and will be the way your student will take the test.

### 4. *How will the accommodations my student receives for PARCC be different than what he/she received on DC CAS?*

The changes in accommodations for the PARCC assessment mean that more students will be given better access to the test.

There are three main differences between DC CAS accommodations and PARCC accommodations:

- Some DC CAS accommodations have a similar PARCC accommodation. The wording may be slightly different, but the substance of the accommodation is the same.
- Some accommodations are brand new for PARCC.

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- Some DC CAS accommodations are now available to all students as PARCC “accessibility features.” These will be available to your student but do not need to be written into his/her IEP or 504 plan.

Your student’s case manager can provide additional details about changes to specific accommodations.

**5. *Will my student get to practice using the accessibility features and accommodations he/she will have on the test?***

Yes. DCPS schools are currently giving several computer-based tests that give students an idea of what the PARCC test will be like. The accommodations available in these tests are similar to the online accommodations available in PARCC. Also, schools are using a practice website to show students the type of questions, accessibility tools and accommodations that will be available in the PARCC assessment. Parents can access this practice website at <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>.

**6. *My student has taken DC CAS Alt in the past. How does this affect him/her?***

Students who take the alternate statewide assessment will not participate in the PARCC. Instead, the DC CAS Alt in ELA/literacy and math will be replaced with the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) alternate assessment.

The NCSC Alternate Assessment is a computer-based test that addresses the needs of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It allows students to demonstrate their performance towards achieving the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) at reduced depth, breadth, and complexity. Students will take the NCSC in grades 3-8 and 11 in reading, writing, and math.

Your student’s case manager will review changes to the alternate assessment with you at your next IEP/504 annual review. You can learn more about the NCSC here: <http://osse.dc.gov/service/national-center-state-collaborative-ncsc>.